

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 08389 161707Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 EB-07 L-03 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /047 W
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R 161550Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4163
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CSA
CSAF
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 8389

FOR LUERS FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS PFOR MILI GT
SUBJECT: REPAIR OF HELICOPTERS

REF: GUATEMALA 8298 (NOTAL), STATE 303450

1. APPRECIATE SWIFT ACTION TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE
THAT PROCESSING OF REPAIR ORDER FOR GAF HELICOPTERS IS
BEING GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION.

2. AS DIRECTED BY AMBASSADOR BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON
LEAVE, MILGP COMMANDER CORBETT MET DECEMBER 14 WITH BOTH
ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL SPIEGELER AND ARMY G-4 TO ATTEMPT
TO CLARIFY PROBLEMS BROUGHT UP BY PRESIDENT LAUGERUD IN
DECEMBER 10 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND LUERS (REF A).
BOTH SPIEGELER AND G-4 WERE TOTALLY UNAWARE OF PRESIDENT'S
DECEMBER 10 MEETING AND OF HIS COMPLAINTS ABOUT USG
SLOWNESS ON MILITARY DELIVERIES. THEY EXPRESSED
COMPLETE IGNORANCE OF ANY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS ON
AMMUNITION RESUPPLY. G-4 NOTED THAT ALL OUTSTANDING
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CONTRACTS FROM 1975 WERE BEING PROCESSED NORMALLY AND
THAT NO AMMUNITION CONTRACTS HAD BEEN SIGNED THUS
FAR IN 1976. SPIEGELER SAID THAT ONLY URGENT ARMY
AMMUNITION REQUIREMENT WAS FOR 106 MM. RECOILESS RIFLE
AMMUNITION WHICH THEY WERE TRYING TO BUY IN TAIWAN.

3. SPIEGELER WAS TOLD THAT EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING OF HELICOPTER REPAIR ORDER, AND THAT WASHINGTON WAS GIVING URGENT ATTENTION TO MATTER. MILGP COMMANDER RECOMMENDED THAT GUATEMALAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, COLONEL MOREIRA, BE AUTHORIZED NOW TO COMMIT THE NECESSARY FUNDS AND TO SIGN DOD LETTERS OF OFFER UPON ARRIVAL SO THAT MATTER CAN BE EXPEDITED DESPITE CHRISTMAS SLOWDOWN. SPIEGELER AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD GET DECISION AND NOTIFY MOREIRA "IMMEDIATELY."

4. WE ARE UNAWARE AS TO HOW LAUGERUD JUMPED TO ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION THAT US HAD BEEN REMISS IN AMMUNITION DELIVERIES, BUT COMMANDER MILGP TOOK OCCASION TO URGE SPIEGELER TO LET US KNOW EARLY OF ANY FUTURE PROBLEMS SO THAT WE CAN ATTEMPT TO REMEDY THEM BEFORE THEY REACH THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL.

5. AS OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF, CHARGE WILL MAKE ABOVE KNOWN TO APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS.
ANDREWS

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NNN

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